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NEWS RELEASE

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101-Year-Old Man Becomes a United States Citizen

CHICAGO, IL., November 29, 1999 - In a naturalization ceremony held today by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, 101-year-old Bernard Galin became a citizen of the United States. Galin was born on May 17, 1898 in the Ukraine and immigrated to the United States on January 15, 1993. He is one of the oldest citizens to become naturalized in the Chicago district.

Today's ceremony was held at the U.S. Federal District Court by Judge Robert Gettleman .

"The United States is my new home and I wanted to be a complete part of this country by becoming a United States citizen," said Galin. "This is a wonderful country that has offered me freedom".

Since July, 1897, the INS has provided more than a century of service to immigrants in Chicago, including the naturalization of new citizens. "The naturalization process is the number one priority nationwide of the INS and we have made great strides in Chicago in increasing the number of new citizens each year," states Brian R. Perryman, INS District Director.

During the past fiscal year, which ended September 30, 1999, the INS office in Chicago naturalized more than 40,000 new citizens.

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